

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic

and/or common Little Montgomery Street Historic District

2. Location

street & number West Montgomery Street and Leadenhall Street not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland code 24 county city code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street & number

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Surveyhas this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ nodate 1981 federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

B-1400

dition		Check one	Check one
excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY ON CONTINUATION SHEET #8

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Little Montgomery Street Historic District is a residential area located in South Baltimore a few blocks to the southwest of the Inner Harbor area. It is composed of approximately fifteen nineteenth century brick houses, some of which are double, that line the 100 block of West Montgomery Street and the northwestern portion of the 800 block of Leadenhall Street. The district is located in the present Ward 22 of Baltimore city and includes parts of blocks 896, 902, and 903. Immediately to the north of the district is vacant land along both sides of Hughes Street with the Otterbein Homesteading area further north. To the west of the district is more vacant land that is to be developed as single family townhouses. Bordering the south side of the district on the west side of Leadenhall Street is a mid twentieth century industrial structure. To the east of Leadenhall Street south of the district is a parking lot for the new St. Martini Lutheran Church at Hanover and Henrietta Streets. Immediately to the east of the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is a concrete block commercial building and related parking area, both of which front on Hanover Street.

Nine of the structures are 'half houses' that are only one room deep with a single pitch roof. The house at 117 West Montgomery Street, one of these nine, was built circa 1820 and is the oldest remaining building in the Sharp-Leadenhall area. It is uncommon, being that it is three bays wide instead of the normal two. Originally a 2½ storey house, the roof was raised to a slighter higher pitch thereby allowing small attic-style windows on the third floor. The interior of the house is almost completely intact with the original mantelpiece, chair rail, window frames and trim and cupboards. This house is the only structure in the area that appears on the Poppleton Map of 1823 and still remains. A later nineteenth century addition is attached to the rear of the house.

The north side of Montgomery Street is lined with four pairs of semi-detached half houses. Because the property lines for these lots were projected from the street grid to the north, the fronts of these houses do not parallel with Montgomery Street. All built at the same time, circa 1835 for freed blacks from the Otterbein area to the north, there were originally six pairs of these houses. Of the eight houses that remain, only one, #108, has been altered significantly. All are laid in common bond and are 2½ stories high and two bays wide. All but 108 have the original dormers. The houses at 110 and 112 have been restored on the exterior. The building at 108 was altered sometime in the late nineteenth century to a full three floors with a simple wood cornice. It is currently under restoration to the original appearance.

Located at the southeast corner of Leadenhall and Montgomery Streets are 109-113 West Montgomery. The three buildings are very similar in style and size but were built individually. Number 113 was built circa 1845 as a store and residence and still remains as one today. It has been owned by the present family since the turn of the century. Like 113, 109 was also built as a store in 1849. The middle dwelling was built in 1848. All three buildings are two bays wide and are two storeys with low attics. The exterior of 109 has been restored to the original appearance. The facade of 113 is circa 1980.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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1

Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District
Baltimore city
State: Maryland

OWNER OF PROPERTY

West Montgomery Street

106	Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Landrum 5626 Thicket Lane Columbia, Maryland 21044	
108	Roland A. Brown, Jr., 108 West Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	
109	Richard J. Waldman 109 W. Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	202-566-3620
110	Joyce E. Leviton 110 W. Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	
111	Lawrence E. Heck 511 S. Sharp Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	837-2045
112	Shareholders Industries, Inc. P. O. Box 13001 Baltimore, Maryland 21203	
113	Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Shemer 113 W. Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	
114	Calvert McCabe 114 West Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	
116	Leo J. Baumgarten 116 W. Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	
117	Robert A. Wyatt 4601 Forest View Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21206	1-652-7035 866-8437
118/120	Noel J. List 120 Ridervale Road Baltimore, Maryland 21204	

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2

Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District
Baltimore city
Maryland

OWNER OF PROPERTY

West Montgomery Street

119	Mary E. Lapides 216 Goodale Road Baltimore, Maryland 21212	272-3720 532-8197
-----	--	----------------------

121/123	Mayor & City Council 222 East Saratoga Street, Rm. 530 Baltimore, Maryland 21202
---------	--

125	Mayor & City Council 222 East Saratoga Street, Rm. 530 Baltimore, Maryland 21202
-----	--

127	James W. Smith 114-B Cross Keys Road Baltimore, Maryland 21210	752-6760 532-7475
-----	--	----------------------

129	Mayor and City Council 222 East Saratoga Street, Room 530 Baltimore, Maryland 21202
-----	---

Leadenhall Street

800	Stephen M. Broache and Miriam Boyer 800 Leadenhall Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	752-1891 752-2017
-----	---	----------------------

802	Alan R. Engel 3220 Guilford Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21218	685-4797 383-8173
-----	--	----------------------

804	Earl D. Lowery 804 Leadenhall Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	202-566-4335
-----	--	--------------

806	Robert M. Quilter 806 Leadenhall Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	396-1120 685-8725
-----	---	----------------------

808	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Vonier 2222 Q Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20008	202-387-1327 202-387-7680
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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District
City: Baltimore
State: Maryland

DESCRIPTION

The five dwellings on the west side of Leadenhall Street were also built individually with the exception of 802-804 which was erected as a double house. Number 808 Leadenhall Street is a two-bay, three-storey dwelling built in 1849, originally as a two storey and low attic house. The roof was raised between 1876 and 1898 to create a full third floor. A wood bracketed cornice with ventilator panels was added at that time. Built in 1852, 806 is a two-bay, two-storey and attic dwelling. Like all of the other buildings on Leadenhall Street it has segmental arched brick lintels and typanums and wood sills. This house has 3/6 lights in the third floor which is lower than the neighboring buildings. The building has been restored on the exterior. Numbers 802-804 Leadenhall were built together in 1861 and are similar to 806 except for their full third floor height. Built in 1855 as a store and residence, 800 Leadenhall is similar to 802-804 and includes a two storey later addition to the rear.

Number 119 West Montgomery Street is two storeys in height and three bays wide. The front of this building has been rebuilt to match the original front which was in unstable condition. Numbers 121-123 West Montgomery Street, like 119, was built around the turn of the century replacing earlier houses. It is four bays wide on the second floor and has a large opening, a window and a door on the first floor. It was used as a garage and funeral home. Numbers 125-127 were built in the late nineteenth century and are two bays wide and two storeys plus attic in height. The windows have segmental arched openings with corbelled arches in relief. The building at 129 West Montgomery was built circa 1875 and is two bays wide and three storeys high. The original storefront has been filled in but the metal dentilled cornice remains intact. The windows on the second and third floors of the building are headed by wood lintels with wave-like relief. A bracketed cornice with ventilator panels is located at the roofline.

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Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District
City: Baltimore
State: Maryland

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Although the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is included within the boundaries of the larger Federal Hill-Riverside Park Historic District determined eligible for listing in the National Register in 1977, it is being nominated separately from the larger Determination of Eligibility district because Little Montgomery Street is a separate unit to itself. This separateness is created by visual and physical features which also determine the district boundaries. 1. The Little Montgomery Street Historic District is surrounded on almost all sides by vacant land (see boundary map) that clearly sets the district apart from the larger district. Most of the vacant land had buildings standing upon it when the determination was made. 2. Montgomery Street in the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is different in size and plan from that in the larger district where it is a five-lane avenue fifty feet wide following the grid of downtown Baltimore and most of South Baltimore. In the Little Montgomery Street Historic District, Montgomery Street is only twenty feet wide and eskewed twenty-four degrees to the grid of the surrounding areas. 3. The Little Montgomery Street Historic District also has a scale more intimate than most of the Federal Hill-Riverside Park Historic District. The buildings in the Little Montgomery Street area tend to be smaller and more consistent in scale and design than those of the surrounding regions.

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Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District
City: Baltimore
State: Maryland

SIGNIFICANCE

for Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), Mr. William Pencek wrote of its history:

"... Sharp-Leadenhall managed to come into its own as an identifiable area in South Baltimore between 1860 and 1875, a neighborhood of Blacks, Germans, and native whites of the laboring class, with strong links to the port, to Camden Station, and to the manufactories that had begun to line the tracks of the B&O. Previously dependent on the schools and churches of the similarly composed neighborhoods to the north, east and west, Sharp-Leadenhall residents began to build supporting institutions for themselves."

He then goes on to say:

"... The period between 1875 and 1900, rather than marking a time of stability for the neighborhood, brought only greater pressures. By 1890, the older housing in the blocks north of Hamburg Street were sheltering great numbers of the new waves of the Polish Jews and Italian immigrants, as well as the existing Negro and German population. Businesses, manufactories, and lumber and coal yards competed for the residential space, which was already densely settled. But some of the same systems which were at work in antebellum Sharp-Leadenhall held through the turn of the century. The black population, always the most economically depressed, was always the last to leave."

The Little Montgomery District was the earliest development in Sharp-Leadenhall and experienced all of the developments that Mr. Pencek mentions. The pairs of double houses on the north side of Montgomery Street were built for freed blacks from the Otterbein area to the north around 1835 (also substantiated by Mr. Pencek). The houses on Leadenhall Street and the south side of Montgomery were built mostly by German imigrants between 1845 and 1861. These houses replaced earlier frame houses that were at the corner of Leadenhall and Montgomery as early as 1823. Mostly built as owner occupied houses, they became rental properties for the most part by the twentieth century - the tenants black.

The Little Montgomery District, too, had the influence of the larger industrial uses that crept into Sharp-Leadenhall by the late nineteenth century. The box factory that is presently on the west side of Leadenhall Street next to the district was built in 1899 and was enlarged after 1950. This establishment was the third manufactory on the site. Between the Civil War and 1899 a four storey planing mill and related facilities was located on the site. This replaced an earlier foundry complex that was in existence before 1845. There is presently talk of the AFL-CIO expanding it planned complex straddling Sharp Street directly to the west to include the demolition of the box factory for new facility space.

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Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District
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SIGNIFICANCE

The portion of West Montgomery Street that lies in the district has a history of its own that is significant to Baltimore. It was originally a line that was part of the southern boundary of John Howard's "Howard's Timber Neck" which was patented in 1667.

This area then became part of Ridgely's Delight when it was passed into the Ridgely family. Sometime before 1800 the northern part which included the Little Montgomery District was sold to John McDonough. John McDonough, who began as a bricklayer, built a fortune and reputation from various building projects he had done. At that time he established his residence on Timber Neck Lane near the corner of the present Leadenhall Street. This site falls on the south side of present day Montgomery Street and within the boundaries of the Little Montgomery Historic District. Timber Neck Lane was the earliest name given to what is presently Montgomery Street between Sharp and Hanover. Until 1816 it served as the southern boundary of the city. John McDonough died in 1811. His land was auctioned off and during that same year it was surveyed for streets. It was at this time that the Sharp-Leadenhall bridge was laid out, using the only street at that time, Timber Neck Lane, as the basis for the new street pattern. Because of the angling of Timber Neck Lane, the grid became skewed from the existing street pattern in Baltimore.

As time wore on, Timber Neck Lane came to be known as Little Montgomery Street. Assessment and Field books used the latter by the 1840s although for a period they were both used. The Little Montgomery title distinguished the street from the rest of Montgomery (east of Hanover) which was known as Great Montgomery Street. These adjectives obviously described the vastly differing widths of the same street. By the late nineteenth century, the adjectives had been dropped and became East Montgomery Street east of Charles and West Montgomery Street west of Charles.

The feel for Little Montgomery Street still remains today, however. The intimate scale that such a street possesses along with the juxtaposition of the two grids makes the Little Montgomery District a unique space within the urban environment. Now surrounded by larger scale commercial buildings, new housing and open space, this part of Montgomery Street acts as an interface of two periods of the social, economical and architectural history of Baltimore and serves as the past of a neighborhood that has architecturally changed over the last ten years.

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Name: Little Montgomery Street Historical District
City: Baltimore
State: Maryland

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore City Land and Tax Records,
Courthouse, Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore City Directories, Enoch Pratt Library,
Baltimore, Maryland

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey:
Sharp-Leandenhall Neighborhood, 1977.
Commission on Historic and Architectural Preservation
City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Little Montgomery Street Historic District

Baltimore city

Maryland

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DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Little Montgomery Street Historic District is a residential area located in South Baltimore a few blocks to the southwest of the Inner Harbor area. It is composed of approximately fifteen nineteenth century brick houses, some of which are double, that line the 100 block of West Montgomery Street and the northwestern portion of the 800 block of Leadenhall Street. The district is located in the present Ward 22 of Baltimore city and includes parts of blocks 896, 902, and 903. Nine of the structures are 'half houses' that are only one room deep with a single pitch roof. The north side of Montgomery Street is lined with four pairs of semi-detached half houses. Because the property lines for these lots were projected from the street grid to the north, the fronts of these houses do not parallel with Montgomery Street.

8. Significance

B-1400

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable criteria: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Little Montgomery Street Historic District draws significance from two sources. First, as the earliest and only coherent remnant of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood in South Baltimore, the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is associated with a working class urban community where, throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Baltimore's native poor, struggling German and Irish immigrants, and freed southern blacks lived side by side competing for the same space and the same railroad and port-related jobs. By the 1890s, the twenty-four blocks of Sharp-Leadenhall were a thriving residential-industrial community with three churches, three public schools, a police station, and dozens of major and minor manufactories. Secondly, the Little Montgomery Street Historic District also achieves significance through the collection of buildings which are examples of a type of early and mid-nineteenth century vernacular architecture in Baltimore. All the buildings are small in scale and of brick construction, abut the sidewalks, are closely spaced, and are generally two to three stories high with two bay facades.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Little Montgomery District is a distinct part of the South Baltimore peninsula. Originally the northernmost portion of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood, it is the earliest and the only coherent part of that neighborhood that is still intact. Urban renewal and highway construction resulted in the demolition of much of Sharp-Leadenhall in the two block wide corridor south of Henrietta Street. This along with the clearing of the east side of Leadenhall Street north of Henrietta has resulted in the isolation of Little Montgomery from the remains of the old community, now three blocks to the south. New housing, now under construction in the blocks between will strengthen the isolation to a point where no ties will remain. Although Little Montgomery was slated for demolition in the early 1970s, preservations kept these buildings along with those along Montgomery Street east of Hanover from the wrecking ball. The plans for the highway that was to follow the bed of Montgomery Street were scrapped. This occurred, unfortunately, after its residents were forced to leave in the mid 1970s. The condemned buildings became city properties until they were auctioned to private owners in 1978-1980. In accepting these houses, the owners have agreed to restore the exteriors of the houses along strict guidelines. A design review committee has been set up by the city to review all exterior plans for these buildings. The retention of as much of the original building facade as is feasible is required. New elements are to duplicate unusable or missing pieces of the facade. Cosmetic changes that are not harmonious to the original style of the buildings must be removed. These guidelines assure the retention of the original fabric of the area. Being included in this Montgomery Urban Renewal Area, Little Montgomery will be preserved as it stands today.

Being the only substantial remains of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood, these buildings intimately share its past. Settled by German immigrants and freed Blacks in the early to mid-nineteenth century, Sharp-Leadenhall became a neighborhood where the two very distinct groups lived side by side. In his 1976 Sharp-Leadenhall Survey

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

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See continuation sheet, Item 9, Page 7

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 2 acresQuadrangle name Baltimore East, MarylandQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	3	6	0	5	5	0	4	3	4	8	9	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries for this nomination are delineated by a broken line on the enclosed map labeled "Boundary Map" and drawn to a scale of 1" = 40'.

See Continuation Sheet #4 for justification.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Mitchell Quilter

organization

date 31 March 1981street & number 806 Leadenhall Street

(301) 396-1120

telephone (301) 685-8725

city or town Baltimore,state Maryland 21230

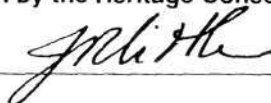
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



2-24-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

B-1400
Little Montgomery Street
Historic District
Baltimore

A 18/360550/4348900



B-1400

HANOVER STREET

LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

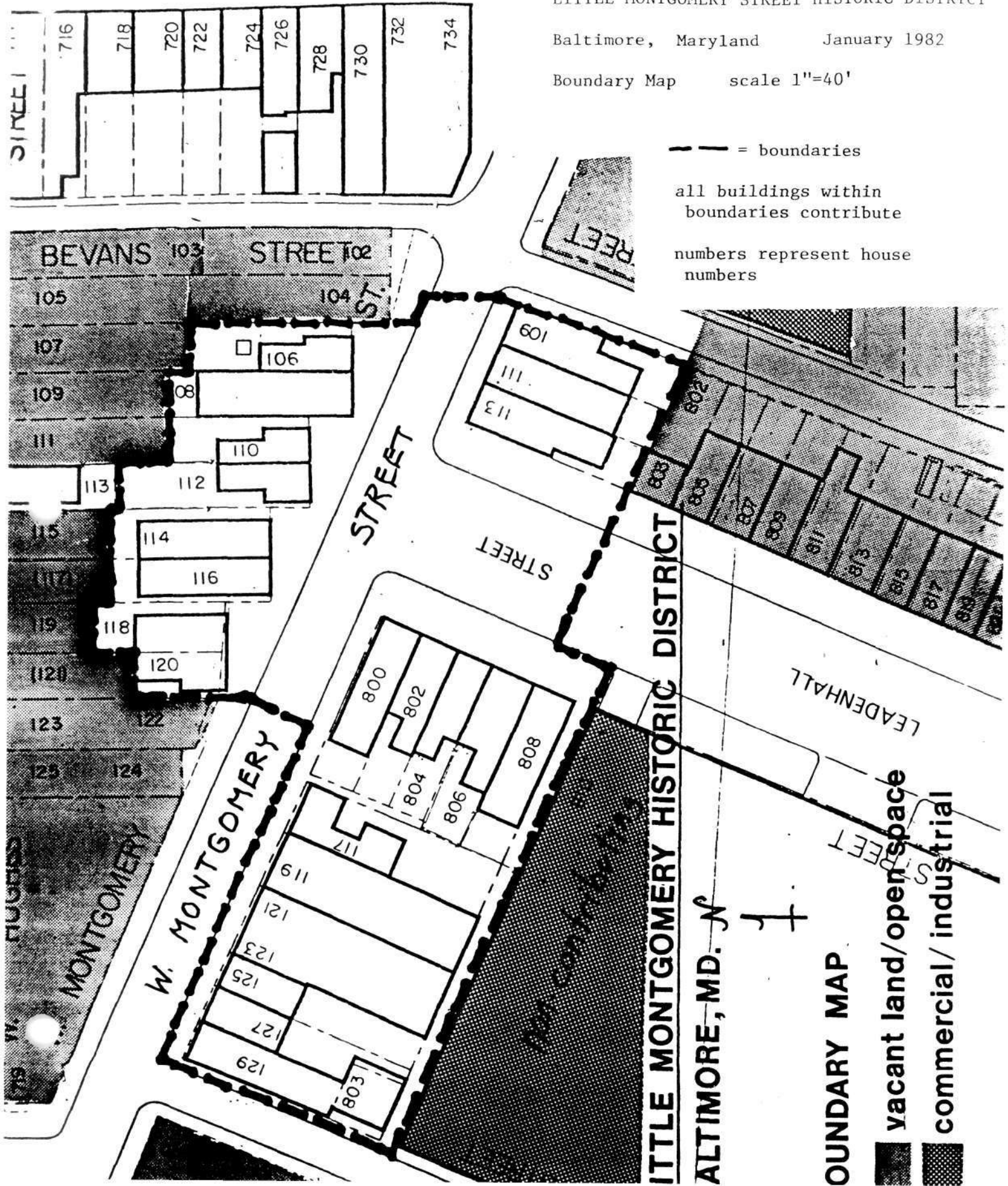
Baltimore, Maryland January 1982

Boundary Map scale 1"=40'

--- = boundaries

all buildings within
boundaries contribute

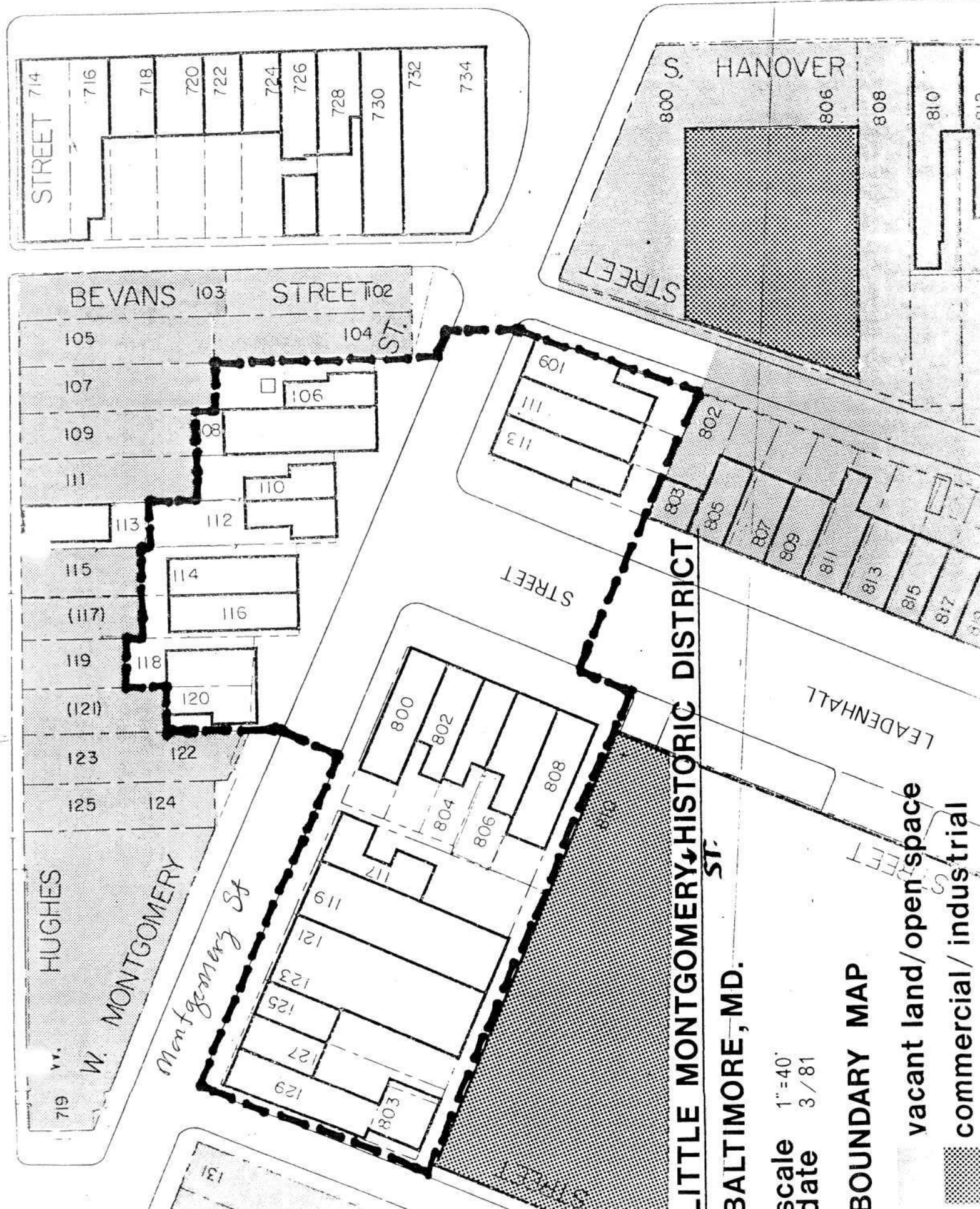
numbers represent house
numbers



B-1400



Hanover St



LITTLE MONTGOMERY HISTORIC DISTRICT

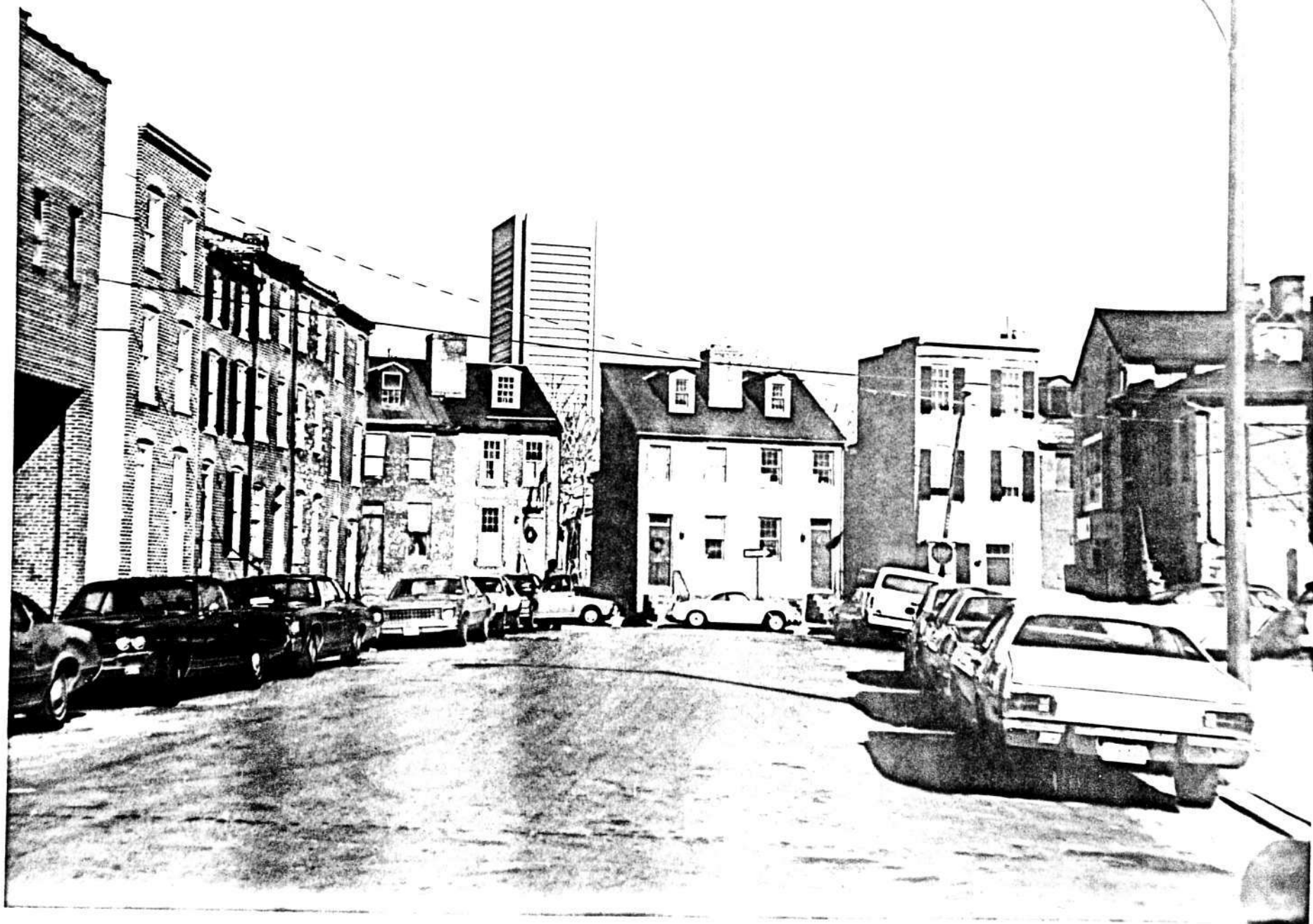
BALTIMORE, MD.

scale 1"=40'
date 3/81

BOUNDARY MAP

vacant land/open space
commercial/industrial

B-1400



B-1400

LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET HISTORIC
DISTRICT - BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ROBERT M. QUILTER
DECEMBER, 1981
NEGATIVES WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

LEADENHALL STREET LOOKING NORTH TO
MONTGOMERY STREET
PHOTOGRAPH #1/7



B-1400

B-1400

LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET HISTORIC
DISTRICT - BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ROBERT M. QUILTER
DECEMBER, 1981
NEGATIVES WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

800 - 808 LEADENHALL STREET AND
110 - 116 W. MONTGOMERY STREET
PHOTOGRAPH #2/7

B-1400



B-1400
LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET HISTORIC
DISTRICT - BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ROBERT M. QUILTER
DECEMBER 1981
NEGATIVES WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

SOUTH SIDE OF W. MONTGOMERY STREET
BETWEEN PEACH AND LEADENHALL STREETS
PHOTOGRAPH #3/7



B-1400

B-1400

LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET HISTORIC
DISTRICT - BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ROBERT M. QUILTER
DECEMBER 1981
NEGATIVES WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

117 - 129 W. MONTGOMERY STREET
FROM THE NORTH

PHOTOGRAPH #4/7

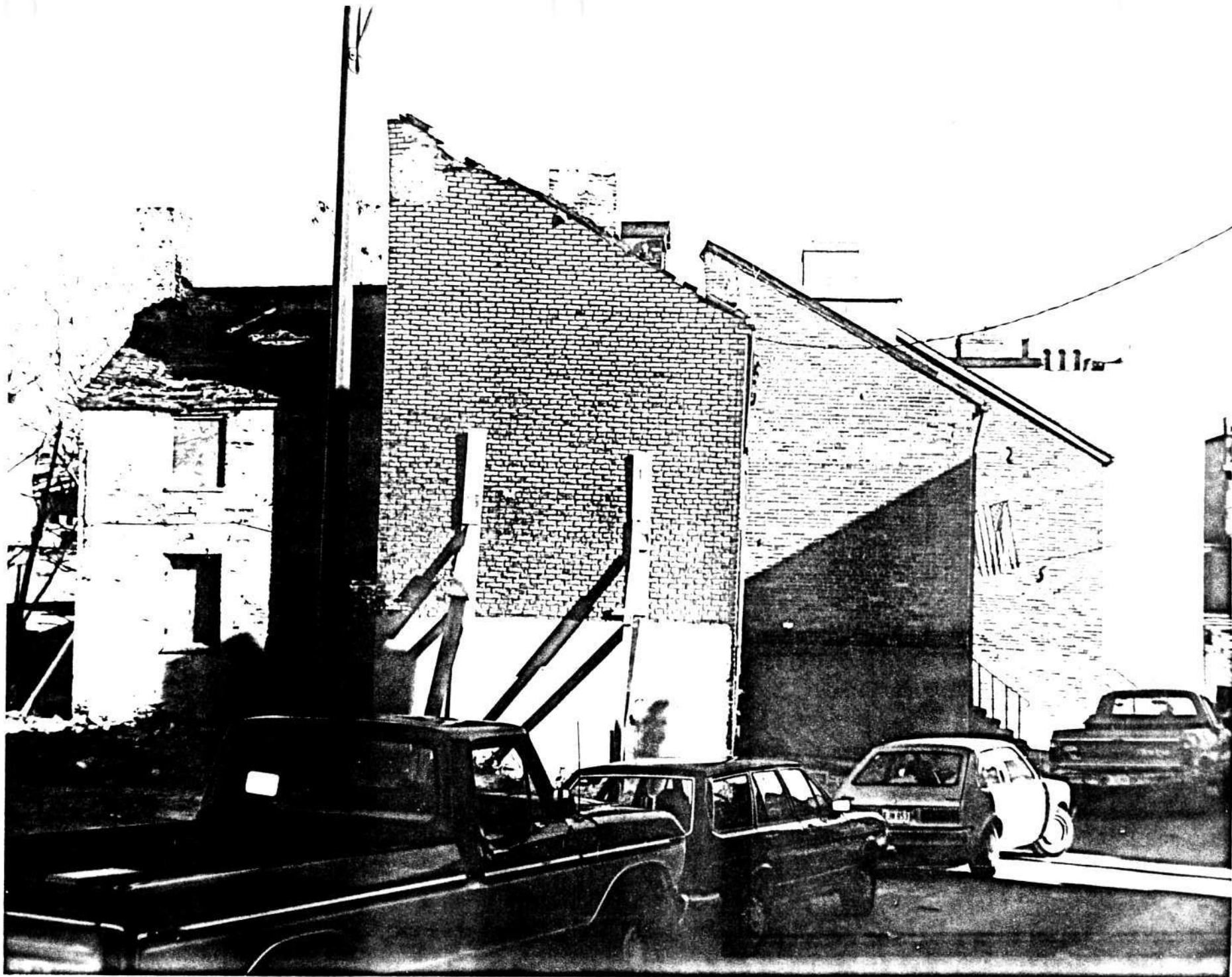


B-1400

B-1400
LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET HISTORIC
DISTRICT - BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ROBERT M. QUILTER
DECEMBER 1981
NEGATIVES WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

109 - 113 W. MONTGOMERY STREET
FROM THE NORTH
PHOTOGRAPH #5/7



B-1400

B-1400

LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET HISTORIC
DISTRICT - BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ROBERT M. QUILTER
DECEMBER, 1981
NEGATIVES WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

NORTH SIDE OF W. MONTGOMERY STREET
LOOKING EAST FROM PEACH STREET

PHOTOGRAPH # 6/7



B-1400

B-1400

LITTLE MONTGOMERY STREET HISTORIC
DISTRICT - BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ROBERT M. QUILTER
DECEMBER, 1981
NEGATIVES WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

W. MONTGOMERY STREET LOOKING WEST
FROM HANOVER STREET

PHOTOGRAPH #7/7

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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1. Name

historic

and/or common Little Montgomery Street Historic District

2. Location

street & number West Montgomery Street and Leadenhall Street not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland code 24 county city code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street & number

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

B-1400

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION

The Little Montgomery Street Historic District is a residential area located in South Baltimore a few blocks to the southwest of the Inner Harbor area. It is composed of approximately fifteen nineteenth century brick houses, some of which are double, that line the 100 block of West Montgomery Street and the northwestern portion of the 800 block of Leadenhall Street. The district is located in the present Ward 22 of Baltimore city and includes parts of blocks 896, 902, and 903. Immediately to the north of the district is vacant land along both sides of Hughes Street with the Otterbein Homesteading area further north. To the west of the district is more vacant land that is to be developed as single family townhouses. Bordering the south side of the district on the west side of Leadenhall Street is a mid twentieth century industrial structure. To the east of Leadenhall Street south of the district is a parking lot for the new St. Martini Lutheran Church at Hanover and Henrietta Streets. Immediately to the east of the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is a concrete block commercial building and related parking area, both of which front on Hanover Street.

Nine of the structures are 'half houses' that are only one room deep with a single pitch roof. The house at 117 West Montgomery Street, one of these nine, was built circa 1820 and is the oldest remaining building in the Sharp-Leadenhall area. It is uncommon, being that it is three bays wide instead of the normal two. Originally a 2½ storey house, the roof was raised to a slighter higher pitch thereby allowing small attic-style windows on the third floor. The interior of the house is almost completely intact with the original mantelpiece, chair rail, window frames and trim and cupboards. This house is the only structure in the area that appears on the Poppleton Map of 1823 and still remains. A later nineteenth century addition is attached to the rear of the house.

The north side of Montgomery Street is lined with four pairs of semi-detached half houses. Because the property lines for these lots were projected from the street grid to the north, the fronts of these houses do not parallel with Montgomery Street. All built at the same time, circa 1835 for free blacks from the Otterbein area to the north, there were originally six pairs of these houses. Of the eight houses that remain, only one, #108, has been altered significantly. All are laid in common bond and are 2½ stories high and two bays wide. All but 108 have the original dormers. The houses at 110 and 112 have been restored on the exterior. The building at 108 was altered sometime in the late nineteenth century to a full three floors with a simple wood cornice. It is currently under restoration to the original appearance.

Located at the southeast corner of Leadenhall and Montgomery Streets are 109-113 West Montgomery. The three buildings are very similar in style and size but were built individually. Number 113 was built circa 1845 as a store and residence and still remains as one today. It has been owned by the present family since the turn of the century. Like 113, 109 was also built as a store in 1849. The middle dwelling was built in 1848. All three buildings are two bays wide and are two storeys with low attics. The exterior of 109 has been restored to the original appearance. The facade of 113 is circa 1980.

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DESCRIPTION

The five dwellings on the west side of Leadenhall Street were also built individually with the exception of 802-804 which was erected as a double house. Number 808 Leadenhall Street is a two-bay, three-storey dwelling built in 1849, originally as a two storey and low attic house. The roof was raised between 1876 and 1898 to create a full third floor. A wood bracketed cornice with ventilator panels was added at that time. Built in 1852, 806 is a two-bay, two-storey and attic dwelling. Like all of the other buildings on Leadenhall Street it has segmental arched brick lintels and typanums and wood sills. This house has 3/6 lights in the third floor which is lower than the neighboring buildings. The building has been restored on the exterior. Numbers 802-804 Leadenhall were built together in 1861 and are similar to 806 except for their full third floor height. Built in 1855 as a store and residence, 800 Leadenhall is similar to 802-804 and includes a two storey later addition to the rear.

Number 119 West Montgomery Street is two storeys in height and three bays wide. The front of this building has been rebuilt to match the original front which was in unstable condition. Numbers 121-123 West Montgomery Street, like 119, was built around the turn of the century replacing earlier houses. It is four bays wide on the second floor and has a large opening, a window and a door on the first floor. It was used as a garage and funeral home. Numbers 125-127 were built in the late nineteenth century and are two bays wide and two storeys plus attic in height. The windows have segmental arched openings with corbelled arches in relief. The building at 129 West Montgomery was built circa 1875 and is two bays wide and three storeys high. The original storefront has been filled in but the metal dentilled cornice remains intact. The windows on the second and third floors of the building are headed by wood lintels with wave-like relief. A bracketed cornice with ventilator panels is located at the roofline.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Although the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is included within the boundaries of the larger Federal Hill-Riverside Park Historic District determined eligible for listing in the National Register in 1977, it is being nominated separately from the larger Determination of Eligibility district because Little Montgomery Street is a separate unit to itself. This separateness is created by visual and physical features which also determine the district boundaries. 1. The Little Montgomery Street Historic District is surrounded on almost all sides by vacant land (see boundary map) that clearly sets the district apart from the larger district. Most of the vacant land had buildings standing upon it when the determination was made. 2. Montgomery Street in the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is different in size and plan from that in the larger district where it is a five-lane avenue fifty feet wide following the grid of downtown Baltimore and most of South Baltimore. In the Little Montgomery Street Historic District, Montgomery Street is only twenty feet wide and skewed twenty-four degrees to the grid of the surrounding areas. 3. The Little Montgomery Street Historic District also has a scale more intimate than most of the Federal Hill-Riverside Park Historic District. The buildings in the Little Montgomery Street area tend to be smaller and more consistent in scale and design than those of the surrounding regions.

8. Significance

B-1400

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
— prehistoric	— archeology-prehistoric	— community planning	— landscape architecture	— religion
— 1400-1499	— archeology-historic	— conservation	— law	— science
— 1500-1599	— agriculture	— economics	— literature	— sculpture
— 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	— education	— military	— social/
— 1700-1799	— art	— engineering	— music	— humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	— exploration/settlement	— philosophy	— theater
— 1900-	— communications	— industry	— politics/government	— transportation
		— invention		— other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Little Montgomery Street Historic District draws significance from two sources. First, as the earliest and only coherent remnant of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood in South Baltimore, the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is associated with a working class urban community where, throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Baltimore's native poor, struggling German and Irish immigrants, and freed southern blacks lived side by side competing for the same space and the same railroad and port-related jobs. By the 1890s, the twenty-four blocks of Sharp-Leadenhall were a thriving residential-industrial community with three churches, three public schools, a police station, and dozens of major and minor manufactories. Secondly, the Little Montgomery Street Historic District also achieves significance through the collection of buildings which are examples of a type of early and mid-nineteenth century vernacular architecture in Baltimore. All the buildings are small in scale and of brick construction, abut the sidewalks, are closely spaced, and are generally two to three stories high with two bay facades.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Little Montgomery District is a distinct part of the South Baltimore peninsula. Originally the northernmost portion of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood, it is the earliest and the only coherent part of that neighborhood that is still intact. Urban renewal and highway construction resulted in the demolition of much of Sharp-Leadenhall in the two block wide corridor south of Henrietta Street. This along with the clearing of the east side of Leadenhall Street north of Henrietta has resulted in the isolation of Little Montgomery from the remains of the old community, now three blocks to the south. New housing, now under construction in the blocks between will strengthen the isolation to a point where no ties will remain. Although Little Montgomery was slated for demolition in the early 1970s, preservations kept these buildings along with those along Montgomery Street east of Hanover from the wrecking ball. The plans for the highway that was to follow the bed of Montgomery Street were scrapped. This occurred, unfortunately, after its residents were forced to leave in the mid 1970s. The condemned buildings became city properties until they were auctioned to private owners in 1978-1980. In accepting these houses, the owners have agreed to restore the exteriors of the houses along strict guidelines. A design review committee has been set up by the city to review all exterior plans for these buildings. The retention of as much of the original building facade as is feasible is required. New elements are to duplicate unusable or missing pieces of the facade. Cosmetic changes that are not harmonious to the original style of the buildings must be removed. These guidelines assure the retention of the original fabric of the area. Being included in this Montgomery Urban Renewal Area, Little Montgomery will be preserved as it stands today.

Being the only substantial remains of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood, these buildings intimately share its past. Settled by German immigrants and freed Blacks in the early to mid-nineteenth century, Sharp-Leadenhall became a neighborhood where the two very distinct groups lived side by side. In his 1976 Sharp-Leadenhall Survey

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SIGNIFICANCE

for Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP),
Mr. William Pencek wrote of its history:

"... Sharp-Leadenhall managed to come into its own as an identifiable area in South Baltimore between 1860 and 1875, a neighborhood of Blacks, Germans, and native whites of the laboring class, with strong links to the port, to Camden Station, and to the manufactories that had begun to line the tracks of the B&O. Previously dependent on the schools and churches of the similarly composed neighborhoods to the north, east and west, Sharp-Leadenhall residents began to build supporting institutions for themselves."

He then goes on to say:

"... The period between 1875 and 1900, rather than marking a time of stability for the neighborhood, brought only greater pressures. By 1890, the older housing in the blocks north of Hamburg Street were sheltering great numbers of the new waves of the Polish Jews and Italian immigrants, as well as the existing Negro and German population. Businesses, manufactories, and lumber and coal yards competed for the residential space, which was already densely settled. But some of the same systems which were at work in antebellum Sharp-Leadenhall held through the turn of the century. The black population, always the most economically depressed, was always the last to leave."

The Little Montgomery District was the earliest development in Sharp-Leadenhall and experienced all of the developments that Mr. Pencek mentions. The pairs of double houses on the north side of Montgomery Street were built for freed blacks from the Otterbein area to the north around 1835 (also substantiated by Mr. Pencek). The houses on Leadenhall Street and the south side of Montgomery were built mostly by German immigrants between 1845 and 1861. These houses replaced earlier frame houses that were at the corner of Leadenhall and Montgomery as early as 1823. Mostly built as owner occupied houses, they became rental properties for the most part by the twentieth century - the tenants black.

The Little Montgomery District, too, had the influence of the larger industrial uses that crept into Sharp-Leadenhall by the late nineteenth century. The box factory that is presently on the west side of Leadenhall Street next to the district was built in 1899 and was enlarged after 1950. This establishment was the third manufactory on the site. Between the Civil War and 1899 a four storey planing mill and related facilities was located on the site. This replaced an earlier foundry complex that was in existence before 1845. There is presently talk of the AFL-CIO expanding its planned complex straddling Sharp Street directly to the west to include the demolition of the box factory for new facility space.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The portion of West Montgomery Street that lies in the district has a history of its own that is significant to Baltimore. It was originally a line that was part of the southern boundary of John Howard's "Howard's Timber Neck" which was patented in 1667.

This area then became part of Ridgely's Delight when it was passed into the Ridgely family. Sometime before 1800 the northern part which included the Little Montgomery District was sold to John McDonough. John McDonough, who began as a bricklayer, built a fortune and reputation from various building projects he had done. At that time he established his residence on Timber Neck Lane near the corner of the present Leadenhall Street. This site falls on the south side of present day Montgomery Street and within the boundaries of the Little Montgomery Historic District. Timber Neck Lane was the earliest name given to what is presently Montgomery Street between Sharp and Hanover. Until 1816 it served as the southern boundary of the city. John McDonough died in 1811. His land was auctioned off and during that same year it was surveyed for streets. It was at this time that the Sharp-Leadenhall bridge was laid out, using the only street at that time, Timber Neck Lane, as the basis for the new street pattern. Because of the angling of Timber Neck Lane, the grid became skewed from the existing street pattern in Baltimore.

As time wore on, Timber Neck Lane came to be known as Little Montgomery Street. Assessment and Field books used the latter by the 1840s although for a period they were both used. The Little Montgomery title distinguished the street from the rest of Montgomery (east of Hanover) which was known as Great Montgomery Street. These adjectives obviously described the vastly differing widths of the same street. By the late nineteenth century, the adjectives had been dropped and became East Montgomery Street east of Charles and West Montgomery Street west of Charles.

The feel for Little Montgomery Street still remains today, however. The intimate scale that such a street possesses along with the juxtaposition of the two grids makes the Little Montgomery District a unique space within the urban environment. Now surrounded by larger scale commercial buildings, new housing and open space, this part of Montgomery Street acts as an interface of two periods of the social, economical and architectural history of Baltimore and serves as the past of a neighborhood that has architecturally changed over the last ten years.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore City Land and Tax Records,
Courthouse, Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore City Directories, Enoch Pratt Library,
Baltimore, Maryland

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey:
Sharp-Leandenhall Neighborhood, 1977.
Commission on Historic and Architectural Preservation
City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

B-1400

See continuation sheet, Item 9, Page

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 2 acresQuadrangle name Baltimore East, MarylandQuadrangle scale 1:34000

UMT References

A

Zone	Easting	Northing							

B

Zone	Easting	Northing							

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries for this nomination are delineated by a broken line on the enclosed map labeled "Boundary Map" and drawn to a scale of 1" = 40'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Mitchell Quilter

organization

date 31 March 1981street & number 806 Leadenhall Street

(301) 396-1120

telephone (301) 685-8725

city or town Baltimore,state Maryland 21230

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

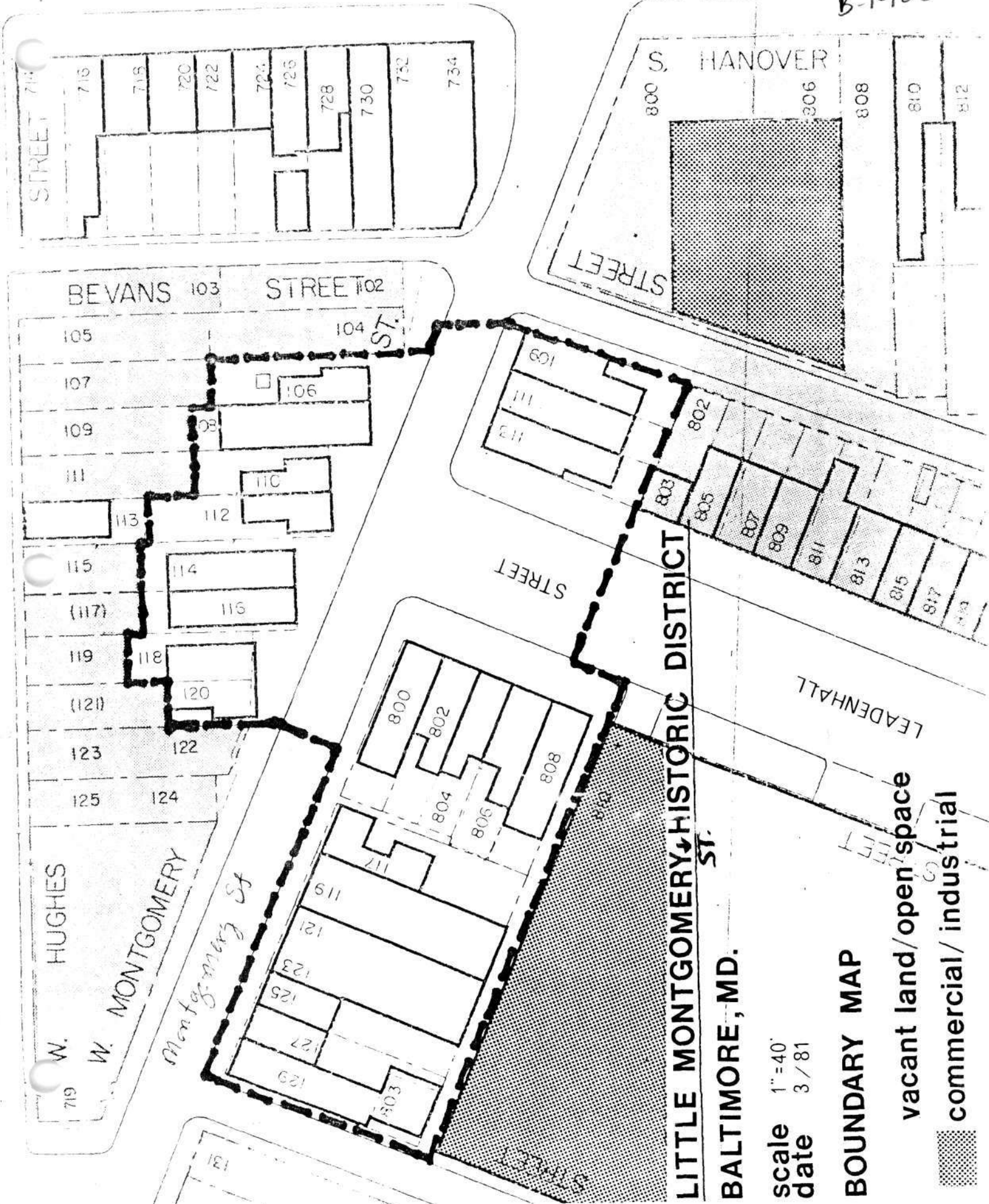
date

Chief of Registration

Hanover Street

12

B-1400



LITTLE MONTGOMERY HISTORIC DISTRICT

BALTIMORE, MD.

scale 1"=40'
date 3/81

BOUNDARY MAP

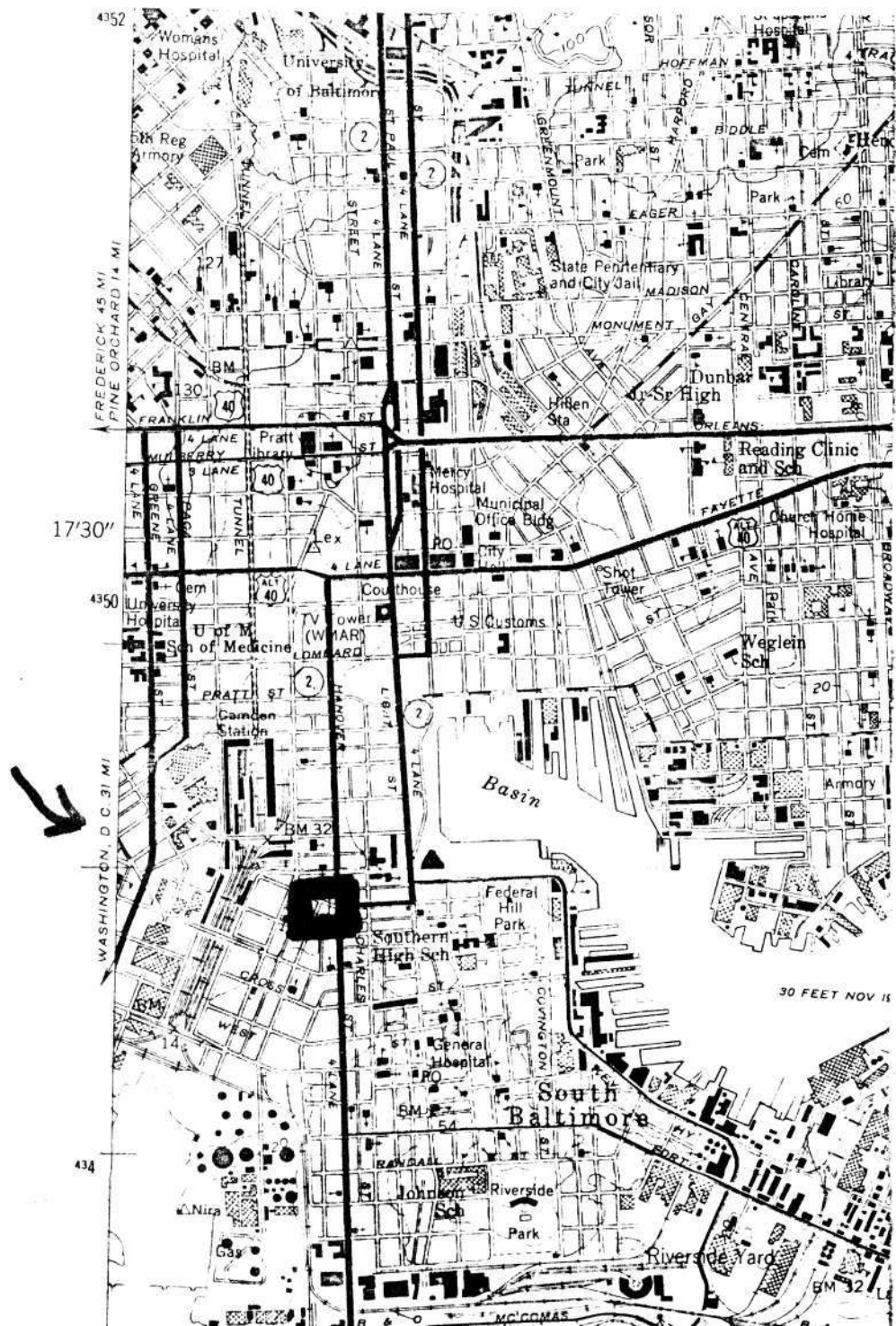
vacant land/open space
commercial/industrial

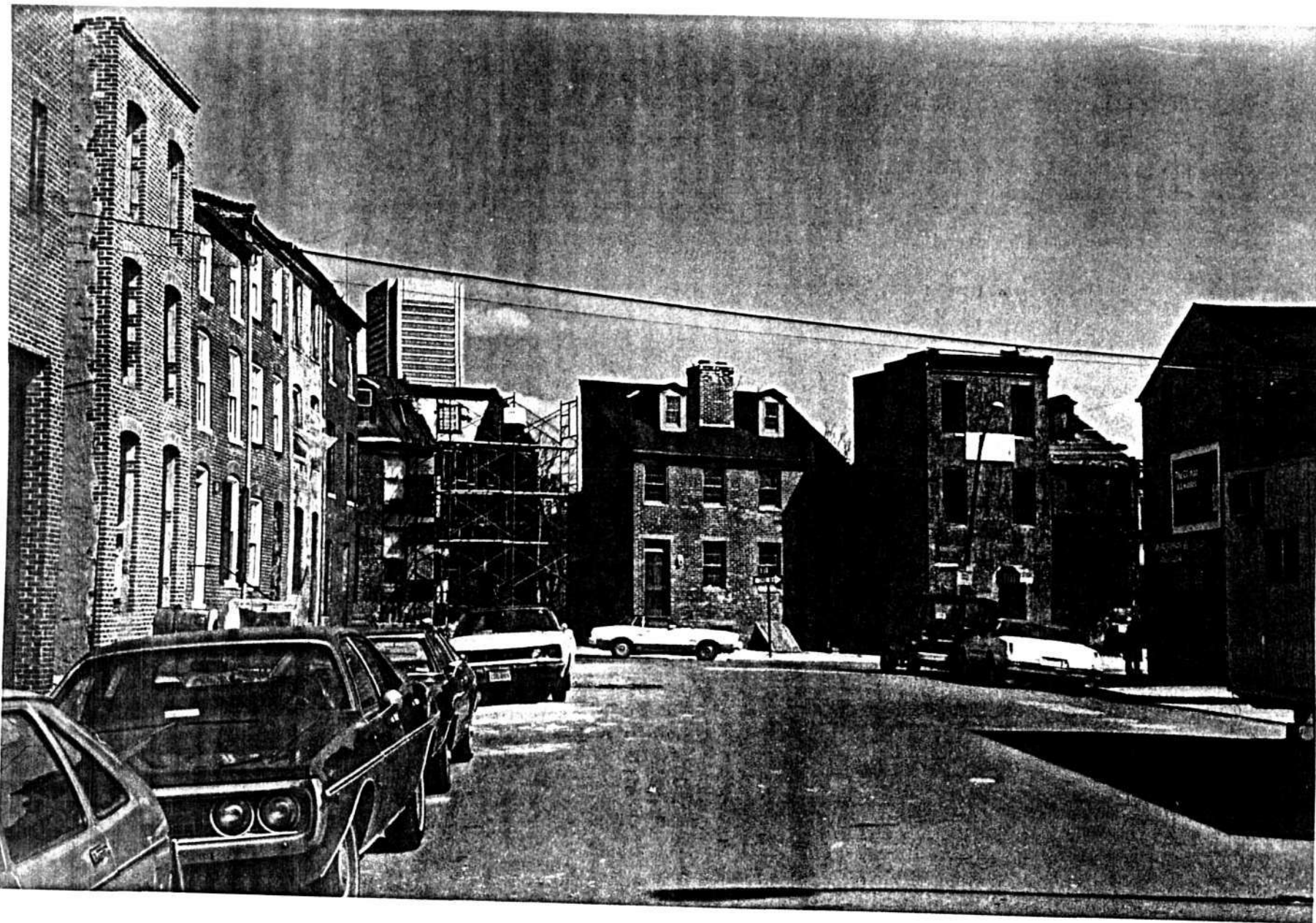
8-1400

Little Montgomery Street Historic District

Baltimore city

Baltimore East Quad





B-1400

B-1400

LITTLE MONTGOMERY HISTORIC DISTRICT
BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ROBERT M. QUILTER
MARCH 1981

NEGATIVES WITH PHOTOGRAPHER

THE INTERSECTION OF LEADENHALL AND
MONTGOMERY STREETS, LOOKING NORTH

PHOTOGRAPH #2

B-1400
Little Montgomery Street Historic District
West Montgomery & Leadenhall Street
Block 0894 Lots 050-057, Block 0902 Lots 001-005; 030-036
Block 0903 Lots 023-025
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

